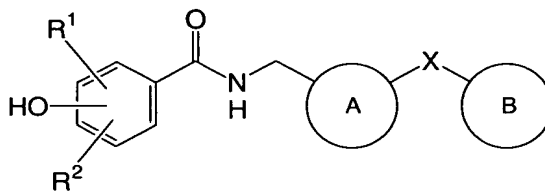


**CLAIMS**

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a cyano group, an alkanoyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a haloalkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a haloalkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

X represents a covalent bond, an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms substituted by a hydroxy group or an oxo group; a methyleneoxy group, an ethyleneoxy group, a methyleneoxymethylene group, an oxymethylene group, an ethyleneoxy group, oxy, imino, iminomethylene, iminoethylene, methyleneimino or ethyleneimino, said imino groups are unsubstituted or are substituted by an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

A represents a bicyclic, aromatic, saturated or partially unsaturated heterocyclic or carbocyclic group having from 8 to 12 ring atoms;

said heterocyclic group contains either from 1 to 4 nitrogen atoms, or 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms and/or 1 or 2 oxygen or sulfur atoms,

said heterocyclic or carbocyclic group are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ;

B represents a phenyl group or a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 6 ring atoms; said phenyl groups and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 6 atoms are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents  $\alpha$ ;

said substituents  $\alpha$  are selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl

- groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cyano groups, alkanoyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, oxo groups or haloalkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;
- 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:  
R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom or a fluorine atom.
- 10 3. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:  
X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms, an alkylene group having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms substituted by a hydroxy group or an oxo group, a methyleneoxy group, an oxymethylene group, iminomethylene or  
15 methyleneimino,  
said imino groups are unsubstituted or are substituted by an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.
4. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:  
20 X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms, an oxymethylene group or iminomethylene.
5. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein  
A represents a bicyclic aromatic heterocyclic group having from 8 to 10 ring  
25 atoms, said heterocyclic group contains either from 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms, or 1 nitrogen atom and/or 1 oxygen or atom.
6. A compound according to Claim 1 to 5 wherein  
A represents a benzimidazole group, a benzoisoxazole group, an indole group,  
30 an indazole group, a quinazolin group, an oxo-1*H*-benzimidazole group, an imidazopyridine group, a tetrahydroimidazopyridine group, or a quinoline group.

7. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein  
B represents an optionally substituted phenyl group.
- 5 8. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein  
B represents unsubstituted phenyl group or a fluorophenyl group.
9. A compound according to Claim 1 selected from:
  - N*-[(2-benzyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-yl)methyl]-4-hydroxybenzamide;
  - 10 4-hydroxy-*N*-{[1-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-6-yl]methyl}benzamide;
  - N*-[(2-benzyl-1*H*-indol-5-yl)methyl]-4-hydroxybenzamide;
  - 4-hydroxy-*N*-{[1-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-indazol-6-yl]methyl}benzamide;
  - N*-{[4-(Benzylamino)quinazolin-6-yl]methyl}-4-hydroxybenzamide;
  - 4-hydroxy-*N*-{[2-methyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-6-
  - 15 yl]methyl}benzamide;
  - N*-{[4-(Benzyloxy)quinolin-6-yl]methyl}-4-hydroxybenzamide;
  - 4-hydroxy-*N*-{[2-oxo-3-(2-phenylethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzimidazol-5-
  - yl]methyl}benzamide;
  - 4-hydroxy-*N*-{[3-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-indazol-5-yl]methyl}benzamide];
  - 20 4-Hydroxy-*N*-{[3-(2-phenylethyl)imidazo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-6-yl]methyl}benzamide;
  - N*-{[3-(benzyloxy)-1,2-benzisoxazol-5-yl]methyl}-4-hydroxybenzamide;
  - N*-{[2-(2-fluorobenzyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-6-yl]methyl}-4-hydroxybenzamide;
  - N*-[(2-benzyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydroimidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridin-7-yl)methyl]-4-
  - hydroxybenzamide;
  - 25 *N*-[(2-benzyl-1*H*-indol-5-yl)methyl]-3-fluoro-4-hydroxybenzamide; and
  - 4-hydroxy-*N*-{[1-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-6-
  - yl]methyl}benzamide;
  - or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 30 10. A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises a compound according to  
Claims 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a  
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically

acceptable carrier.

11. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claims 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
12. A method for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claims 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
13. A method according to Claim 12 where the disease condition is selected from stroke or brain injury, chronic neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), epilepsy, convulsive disorder, pain, anxiety, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) related neuronal injury, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, tumor, post-anesthesia cognitive decline (PACD), glaucoma, tinnitus, tardive dyskinesia, allergic encephalomyelitis, opioid tolerance, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).